Reviewer’s report

Title: 2-Ethoxystypandrone, A Novel Small-Molecule STAT3 Signaling Inhibitor from Polygonum Cuspidatum, Inhibits Cell Growth and Induces Apoptosis of HCC cells and HCC Cancer Stem Cells

Version: 3 Date: 26 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Tomoharu KUBOYAMA

Reviewer's report:

Please mention some comments in the revised manuscript about the time lag, because the cells were not dead at 6.5 h after the treatment in Fig. 2B, but they were dead at 24 h after the treatment in Fig. 3A. At 6.5 h after the treatment, STAT3 phosphorylation would be enoughly inhibited and PARP would be already cleaved.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?  
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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